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### UM's 1996 business drive aims for \$275,000

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# The University of Montana

## NEWS RELEASE

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Oct. 3, 1996

### **UM'S 1996 BUSINESS DRIVE AIMS FOR \$275,000**

#### **MISSOULA --**

The University of Montana Foundation launched its annual Missoula Business Drive this week with the goal of raising \$275,000 to meet immediate academic needs.

About 150 community and business leaders have volunteered their time to call on peers to contribute to the drive, which is a major source of income for UM's Excellence Fund. For the past six years, the Business Drive has used the theme "Count Me In" to encourage the local community to band together in support of UM.

A victory celebration Nov. 19 will close this year's fund drive.

"This year we're really focusing on participation," said the drive's chair, Dr. Robert J. Seim of Missoula Orthopedic Associates. "We'd like as many businesses and professionals as possible to join all our volunteers in supporting the University."

For the 1996-97 academic year, President George Dennison has identified student scholarships, faculty development and the Mansfield Library as some of the priorities for which private support is needed.

"This money is tremendously important to the University because it supports academic areas that the state does not," said UM Foundation Annual Fund Director Shawn Gunnin. "For example, there are 15 students receiving Excellence Fund scholarships who might not otherwise be able to attend UM. In these days of increasing tuition costs, scholarships are more and more important."

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Dennison has earmarked \$1,000 of this year's fund-raising total for a faculty award in honor of Missoula lawyer Tom Boone, one of the business drive's founders and the last original member to retire from its steering committee. The first "Tom Boone Town and Gown Award" will be presented to a faculty member who has been successful in fostering good will and a spirit of cooperation between the University and the community.

It was the perceived economic impact of the University on Missoula that prompted the UM Foundation to establish the business drive in 1978 at the suggestion of six local businessmen -- Boone, Paul Chumrau, Tom Davis, John Ruffato, George Leland and Jack Hoon.

In creating the award in Boone's honor, Dennison said: "The 'Town and Gown Award' encompasses exactly what the Business Drive is all about -- our interdependence upon each other."

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